



Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) Final Meeting Minutes: October 12, 2006

Editorial Note: Information communicated in these minutes is not to be used as official New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection policy or as an official Department notification. Contact NJDEP officials directly for official information regarding matters communicated in these minutes.

Administrative Business

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM. Vinny Marfinsky (JMEUC) motioned to approve the September minutes. Terrie McIntyre (Merck) seconded and the minutes were approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Laboratory Certification Program: Dr. Mike Miller (NJDEP-OQA) stated methods 8015B & 8015D are both currently acceptable for Ethanol analysis. Purge and trap is not recommended. "The direct injection has a high MDL. It is possible to use a heated headspace method. In addition, a heated purge and trap method with salt addition is a possible procedure". Dr. Miller will seek guidance from Site Remediation regarding desired reporting limits/action levels. Steve Reduker (IAL) indicated that the direct injection method has a reporting limit of 5-10 PPM. Steve stated that a SRP Case Manager requested ethanol by 8260. Steve also inquired if azeotropic distillation would be required in the future.

Dr. Miller stated the petroleum product method OQA-QAM-025 is moving to version 6. Revised SOPs are due October 13, 2006. There are currently about 8 labs certified for this method.

Laura Vancho (NJAW) asked about certification for PFOA. Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated the STL-Denver lab is the only certified lab. It is a performance based method.

Dr. Miller stated that RCRA was written as a guidance document with the exception of the disposal characteristics. The NJDEP-OQA uses these guidance methods as a standard during audits and certification. The OQA will be sending a memo regarding upgrading to the new methods in 4A and 4B. The OQA will require labs to eventually update to the new methods.

PT Program: Rachel Ellis (NJDEP-OQA) stated the WP intent to suspend letters have been sent. Payment for the WP study is due November 6. The DW suspension letters were sent to enforcement. Invoices for the January study will be sent by October 23. SHW waters will ship on October 13. SHW solid samples will ship on October 20.

NELAC/INELA Update: The annual meeting was held in August. NELAC will now need to be self-sufficient, as the EPA will no longer provide the funding. It may combine with INELA. The new organization would be known as The NELAC Institute (TNI). Some discussion took place regarding the formation of TNI. The new INELA standard was put to a vote. The field standards seemed OK and INELA responded to the criticisms. The PT and Quality Systems Standard remained in draft status.

NJQL's: Joe Aiello (NJDEP-OQA) stated that the Enterprise server must be functional first.

Bioassay: No report.

Sludge (Biosolids): No report.

Communications and OQA Website: No update.

Old Business

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water: Linda Bonnette (NJDEP-BSDW) stated that a round table has been proposed for Friday, November 3 in the Public Hearing Room from 9 am to 3:30 pm. The tentative agenda includes New State Forms, E2, PFOA, Regulatory Updates, PWTa, Lead & Copper, IDSE, and notification requirements. Linda stated the letter regarding Cyanide monitoring has not been sent yet but should be out soon.

PWTa: John Shevlin (NJDEP-BSDW) stated that the new Enterprise Edition server should be on-line early next year at the latest and PWTa Reporting Laboratories will be required to utilize the new E2/Compass data delivery system at that time. The perchlorate rule is under legal review by the NJDEP's Office of Legal Affairs. NJ will be proposing an MCL of 5 PPB. California recently proposed an MCL of 4 PPB. The Bureau of Release Prevention has proposed that perchlorate be added to the Hazardous Substance List (HSL). The PWTa rules sunset in September 2007. John will begin the readoption process for the PWTa Rules soon. Please send any comments regarding additions, deletions, or other proposed changes regarding the PWTa Rule to John as soon as possible.

Site Remediation: An e-mail from Carl Armbruster (STL) was read "EPA intends to publish rule changes to the water methods in the Federal Register this week. One of the changes is that 413.1 will no longer be accepted. My understanding is that these rule changes will take effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register. That means that 413.1 will no longer be accepted effective Mid-November". It was noted that in the August ELAC meeting minutes, Greg Toffoli (NJDEP-ODQ) commented that Site Remediation will continue to accept method 418.1 until method 413.1 is eliminated from the CFR. Dr. Miller (DEP-OQA) commented that the Department will eliminate method 418.1 after 413.1 is eliminated. It may be replaced by the table proposed by Dr. Miller and/or something like the Mass. Method. Dr. Miller indicated the NJDEP will be looking for a lab to beta test the new methods. The lab may contact either Dr. Miller or Greg Toffoli.

Harvey Klein (GSL) indicated the changes will also update to later editions of Standard Methods and revise some holding times. It was requested that the changes be discussed during the November ELAC meeting after all have had a chance to review. The link to the proposal is www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods/update2003/mur-pre-pubfinal.pdf.

Sharon O'Toole (Mid-Atlantic Environmental Labs) stated that she has heard about case manager advice that reporting to the MDL is sufficient for the NJGWQS. She is concerned that if most labs are performing 8270 SIM to meet the standards they are at a disadvantage if the case manager does not enforce the NJGWQS. She also questioned labs

reporting MDLs below their low standard. Dr. Miller stated that if the MDL is run appropriately, it must be validated. Vini Bandira (PTL) stated the new quadrapole GC/MS' can meet the 20 PPT limit. Joe Aiello (DEP-OQA) asked that any examples of Case Manager's indicating the NJGWQS' do not need to be met be forwarded to him.

New Business: None.

Lab Certification Fee Proposal: Joe Aiello (DEP-OQA) distributed a draft of the new fee proposal. 7 main points:

- 1.) Increase in the number of fee categories from 42 to 75 based on the technical variety of current analytical methodology.
- 2.) Assess fees per category by technical complexities of low, medium, high and specialized.
- 3.) Assess higher fees to laboratories participating in the NJ-NELAP than to those participating in the NJ-ELCP.
- 4.) Provide for the adjustment of fees based on the Consumer Price Index.
- 5.) Revise the category listing for lab personnel requirements and revising the scope of several subchapters to reflect the changed fee categories.
- 6.) Assess a fee for returned checks.
- 7.) The Department to have the authority to assess costs to businesses if and when a vendor other than the State of New Jersey is used to conduct audits.

There were not any other new issues. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:30 AM on November 9, 2006 – 5th Floor Conference Room.

Note: All visitors must show one form of identification with a photo, or two non-photo IDs, when signing in at a DEP building. This will be required at all DEP main lobbies in the Trenton complex (401, 501, 440 and 428). All visitors should be prepared to verify their identification.